

May 23, 2012

News Release

For Immediate Release

Westport Pool Ribbon-cutting Opens Season

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board celebrates the opening of outdoor pool season and new improvements at Westport Pool with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at noon Thursday, May 24, at Westport Pool, 3100 W. Mt. Vernon St., Springfield.

The brief ceremony will be followed by a free swim day at Westport Pool, with children from the surrounding neighborhoods poised to jump in the pool the moment the ribbon is cut. All other Parks pools follow their normal schedules Thursday, including 1- 6:30 p.m. at Fassnacht, Grant Beach, Silver Springs and Meador pools; and 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. and 1-4 p.m. at McGee/McGregor Wading Pool.

The Park Board is pleased to announce a nearly 50-percent increase in pool hours this year, with at least three outdoor pools open each day of the week, and every pool open six days a week. Maintenance days formerly scheduled on Mondays have been staggered throughout the week, and all outdoor pools are open Thursday through Sunday.

"We have completely restored and expanded our pool hours since reductions were made in 2008, and this year we're open more than ever before," said Marc Baker, Aquatics Supervisor for the Park Board. "We were able to extend hours without raising admission prices, which have remained the same since 2009."

Daily admission remains \$2.25 for youth and seniors, \$2.75 for adults, the same price since 2009. Discount coupon books and all-season pool passes are also available. Also new this year, regular outdoor pool admission prices apply to the indoor Chesterfield Aquatics Center, 1-8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Splash 'n Sizzle events return to Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day, plus weekend evenings in July, with \$1 admission, or free admission with a canned food item donated to Ozarks Food Harvest. Free swim days are also scheduled for select Thursday mornings.

Westport Pool, built in 1977, has been completely renovated and improved with new zero-depth entry, water sprays, interactive water features, in-pool climbing wall, drop slide, diving board, shade structures, new fence, new filtration system and new parking lot. Architect for the project was Eric McCune with Sapp Design Associates. General Contractor was 2-Point Construction Company. Aquatics consultant was Craig Roy with Water's Edge Aquatic Design. The \$680,000, project was funded by the voter-approved 2006 Parks Sales Tax, which also funded pool renovations at Fassnacht (2009), Silver Springs (2010), and Grant Beach (2011) and is currently funding construction of the indoor Doling Aquatics Center, expected to open this winter.

For pool schedules and more information, visit parkboard.org/aquatics or call the Aquatics Hotline at 417-864-2099. For media inquiries, call Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator for the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, at 417-874-2176 or 417-224-5510.